

**EXHIBIT E**

Excerpt of FBI Interview of Chris Bettencourt, July 12, 2016.

**INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS BETTENCOURT**

**Q=SA Cusak**

**Q1=Special Agent (Mark Silva)**

**Q2=(Vince)**

**A=Chris Bettencourt**

Q: This is Special Agent (Jonathan) Cusak at the IRS mer- Modesto field office. I'm with Special Agent (Mark Silva) of the IRS and Chris Bettencourt. It is July 12, 2000 thir- 2016, at, uh, 11:44 am. So just...

A: Okay.

Q: ...keep on talking like usual.

A: All right. And there's that other one that you wanted. That was the most recent one.

Q: Uh, okay. So this is...

A: An ex-employee that they fired.

Q: Okay. So he's saying he's working on (Dennis)'s house with taxpayer's money. What did this ex-employee do? His name is (Barrett).

A: (Chufo).

Q: (Chufo). What - what did he do?

A: Worked for (Atomic) at the (rip).

Q: At the (rip).

A: Mm-hm.

Q: Okay. So he'd be a good person to talk to.

A: Oh, most definitely.

1126  
1127 A: I imagine some of them are.  
1128  
1129 Q1: What about the board? How much do you think they know? 'Cause a lot of  
1130 them, like then - you know, they're - they're - the - the farmers in the district  
1131 and they're...  
1132  
1133 A: And the president of the board. Yeah, yeah.  
1134  
1135 Q: So...  
1136  
1137 A: Well, I do know - on that diversion, there was also another pump. So the water  
1138 would come in through the diversion. And (Michael Lindeman) - if you notice  
1139 all the ground around (John Bennett)'s house, that's all (Michael Lindeman)'s.  
1140 If you notice the - the last few years, he quit farming it because he used to get  
1141 - well, he - he's aware of it. Uh, they're aware of it being there 'cause they  
1142 have a little sump pump there that they would pull out and irrigate all that land  
1143 for free with that water that was coming through the diversion box, 'cause it  
1144 borders their property, if that makes any sense.  
1145  
1146 Q: (Lindeman) did that?  
1147  
1148 A: Yeah.  
1149  
1150 Q: So he was aware of the diversion because he was stealing water from - well,  
1151 he was...  
1152  
1153 A: On that...  
1154  
1155 Q: Was he stealing water or was - it was known?  
1156  
1157 A: No, it was - it - it was known because his guy - his foreman, (Tayo) would call  
1158 me and say hey, that diversion - he wouldn't call it the diversion. He'd ca-  
1159 we'd ca- used to call it the (Lin) drain 'cause it borders (Lindeman)'s  
1160 property. So it's called the (Lin) drain. He'd say hey, the (Lin) drain's running  
1161 really low. I think you guys need to put some more fresh water in there. I can't  
1162 run my pump to irrigate.  
1163  
1164 Q: Where would the sump pump be? So if we - if we went back with satellite  
1165 pictures.  
1166  
1167 A: It's still there. The pump's still there. But there's no meter on it. There was  
1168 never no meter. They would just run it - it would run about 2-1/2 to 3 CFS  
1169 max.  
1170

1171 Q: And...

1172

1173 A: And that's - and he'd use that to irrigate.

1174

1175 Q: And how far from that, uh, valve would that be?

1176

1177 A: Well, it - well, you got, uh, you got (Oxford) road. And then the diversion

1178 would be over here. And we have the pump here that pumps it from here, over

1179 to this pond. And then this would be our main canal. And his pump was right

1180 here. And then our pump pumps into the water right there.

1181

1182 Q: Okay. So hi- diversion was over here.

1183

1184 A: The diversion's way over here. We'd fill up this pond. And then from this

1185 pond, it would pump over to this pond. And then he had a pump right there

1186 that he'd pull out of. Or sometimes he'd throw a booster pump and just drop it

1187 in there and run sprinklers.

1188

1189 Q: That (Mike)?

1190

1191 A: Yeah.

1192

1193 Q: So these guys, they don't want (Dennis) out because they're getting free water

1194 and all sorts of stuff. So if we do go talk to these board members, they're

1195 gonna be blowing smoke up our butts, huh? Or do you think, uh...

1196

1197 A: I - it depends on how you squeeze them.

1198

1199 Q: Well, so are you saying that you think all of them know about the diversion...

1200

1201 A: No, 'cause if...

1202

1203 Q: ...and the funny business?

1204

1205 A: No. 'Cause if they all knew about it, they'd all want a better water rate. You

1206 see what I'm seeing - you see what I'm saying?

1207

1208 Q: Well, let me - let's just go down the - so what about (Bennett)? Let's start

1209 with him. What - what is - what do you think of him?

1210

1211 A: Mm, I don't really know too much on him. I mean, I - I know - I know him

1212 personally 'cause I used to work at - 'cause he's part owners at (Ingemar)

1213 Packing.

1214

1215 Q: Mm-hm.